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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
---------- 041648
R 081720Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 6066
US NATO BRUSSELS 2618
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCUSAFE SEMBACH AB GERMANY
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
COMFAIRMED NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5112

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: STRIKE ANNOUNCED AGAINST US FORCES

REF: ROME 5041, 3011 AND 2733(NOTAL)

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR MR. ST. GERMAIN
CINCUSAFE FOR MR. GRABULIS
CINCUSAREUR FOR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A 48-HOUR STRIKE AGAINST US FORCES HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED FOR APRIL 17-18 BY THE UNIONS REPRESENTING ITALIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FORCES. UNION PLANS INCLUDE A DEMONSTRATION IN ROME CULMINATING AT THE EMBASSY. REASONS FOR THE ACTION IN-CLUDE DEMANDS ON WAGE ESCALATION, SENIORITY AND UNION LEAVE. CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICIALS OF THE FORCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EMBASSY, ARE SEEKING TO AVERT STRIKE PLANS BY ACCEDING TO
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CERTAIN UNION REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE TWO UNIONS WHICH REPRESENT ITALIANS EMPLOYED BY US FORCES IN ITALY (FILTAT-CISL AND UIDATCA-UIL) HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CONDUCT A 48-HOUR STRIKE AGAINST US FORCES ON APRIL 17-18. IN ADDITION, THEY INTEND TO MOUNT A DEMONSTRATION IN ROME, CULMINATING BEFORE THE US EMBASSY, ON APRIL 18. THEY WILL ALSO MAKE EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE PUBLICITY FOR THEIR GRIEVANCES IN THE INFORMATION MEDIA.

3. THE UNIONS CITE FOUR PRIMARY ISSUES FOR THE STRIKE: (1) THE AUGMENTATION OF THE PAY OF ALL WORKERS BY 12,000 LIRE ($19) PER MONTH AS PART OF THE WAGE ESCALATION (CONTINGENZA) AGREEMENT APPLIED THROUGHOUT INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE; (2) SPECIAL LEAVE FOR UNION REPRESENTATIVES; (3) THE RECOMPUTATION OF SENIORITY; AND (4) REVISION OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH LABOR RELATIONS ARE CONDUCTED, I.E., A MORE DIRECT ROLE FOR THE UNIONS IN ESTABLISHING WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF WORK.

4. DR. ENZO LEOLINI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FILTAT-CISL, HAS INDICATED THAT THE STRIKE AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIONS MIGHT BE AVERTED IF THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CPCC), WHICH REPRESENTS THE US FORCES IN DEALING WITH THE UNIONS, WERE WILLING TO MEET WITH THE UNIONS ON APRIL 21 AND WOULD GIVE FIRM ASSURANCES THAT CONCRETTE DECISIONS WOULD BE REACHED AT THE MEETING. PRESSED FURTHER, LEOLINI FELT THAT, IF THE WAGE ESCALATION DEMAND COULD BE MET ON APRIL 21 AND INDICATION GIVEN THAT THE SENIORITY AND UNION LEAVE ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN A MONTH, THIS MIGHT SUFFICE TO BRING ABOUT CANCELLATION OF THE UNION ACTIONS. LEOLINI RECOGNIZED THAT THE FOURTH DEMAND IS A MUCH MORE COMPLEX ISSUE AND NOT SUBJECT TO QUICK RESOLUTION.

5. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CPCC IS CURRENTLY SEEKING TO GAIN THE AGREEMENT OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN ACCEDING TO THE UNION REQUEST FOR AN APPROPRIATE MEETING WITH THE UNIONS ON APRIL 21. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDO STRIKE PLANS IN ITALY ONCE THEY ARE SET IN MOTION.

6. COMMENT: THERE ARE SEVERAL CROSS-CURRENTS AT PLAY IN THE UNION AGITATION. BOTH LEOLINI AND UIDATCA-UIL SECRETARY GENERAL
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GATTI ARE SOMEWHAT DISCOMFITED BY THE STRIKE/DEMONSTRATION PLANS BUT ARE LIMITED IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY CAN DISSUADE THEIR THEIR MORE MILITANT SUBORDINATES. SOME OF THESE LATTER, IN TURN, ARE COMPETING IN SEEKING TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS WITHIN THE UNION HIERARCHY. FINALLY, WITH NATIONAL STRIKES THE ORDER OF THE DAY, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, RARELY TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKES CALLED BY THE CCU) WOULD ALSO RESORT TO THIS

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MEANS. BEYOND THESE CONSIDERATIONS THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT THE EMPLOYEES DOUBTLESS DO HAVE SOME LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE WAGE ESCALATION DEMAND WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MET BY NATO HEADQUARTERS IN NAPLES.BEAUDRY

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